

Message Text

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3380

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 8768

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FOR: D/HA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICEM

SUBJECT: PLANS FOR ICEM'S SCBF, EXCOM AND COUNCIL SESSIONS,
NOV 15 THROUGH 24, 1976

SUMMARY: MISSION REPORTS MAJOR ITEMS OF
INTEREST LIKELY TO ARISE IN NOVEMBER SESSIONS OF ICEM'S
SUB-COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (SCBF), EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE (EXCOM), AND COUNCIL, AS PERCEIVED BY ITS
DIRECTOR, JOHN THOMAS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN EXTENDED SESSION NOV 4, ICEM DIRECTOR THOMAS
REVIEWED WITH MOSSOFF PLANS AND PRINCIPAL ISSUES
RELATED TO FORTHCOMING ICEM SESSIONS. FOLLOWING ARE
MAJOR POINTS.

2. SCBF: KRAHN (NETHER LANDS) WILL CHAIR, WITH WARREN
(US) AS RAPPORTEUR. THOMAS FEELS THAT KRAHN MAY
RAISE SUBJECT OF NEW PROGRAM FORMAT OF ICEM BUDGET AS
PROBLEM, AND ATTEMPT TO LOBBY OTHER MEMBERS TO SEEK
CHANGES. DIFFICULTY APPEARS ENTIRELY INTERNAL ONE
RELATED TO ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN
KRAHN'S MINISTRY. THOMAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER KRAHN WOULD
MAKE SERIOUS EFFORT IN THIS REGARD. SWISS WAS ONLY
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OTHER REP KNOWN TO THOMAS TO BE LEANING TOWARD KRAHN'S

VIEW IN THIS REGARD, AND THIS HE CONSIDERED "NOT SERIOUS."

3. OTHERWISE THOMAS FELT SCBF WOULD BE LARGELY REPEAT OF SPRING SESSION. WHILE ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKE TO GET OUT OF DEFICIT FINANCING POSTURE, HE HELD LITTLE PROSPECT FOR THIS AND NOTED THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS ON SUBJECT IN SPRING. ICEM ALSO WOULD FAVOR MANDATORY NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT AGAIN THOMAS VIEWED THESE CHANGES AS SLIM. NONETHELESS HE FELT SCBF MIGHT ENGAGE IN SOME DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT. THE GUIDELINES ON SPECIAL PROGRAMS DEVELOPED IN THE JUNE MEETING WILL BE CONSIDERED AS ITEM 4 ON SCBF AGENDA AND PROCEED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WITHER NOTED BY SCBF OR, IF DESIRED, IN FORM OF RESOLUTION DEVELOPED BY SCBF.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM): FOURDIN OF BELGIUM WILL CHAIR WITH CARIAS OF HONDURAS AS VICE-CHAIRMAN. ITEMS 2 AND 3, 1976 BUDGET AND 1977 AND 1978 PROGRAM AND BEDGET PROPOSALS, WILL PROCEED TO EXCOM FROM SCBF. THOMAS PERCEIVED NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM IN BALANCING ICEM'S 1976 BUDGET, NOTING THAT IT BASED ON END OF JULY FIGURES AND ICEM FINANCIAL CONDITION HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THAT TIME. AS FOR 1977 BUDGET, HE CITED DEFICIT BUT CONSIDERED THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE PICK UP, AS IN PAST YEARS, FROM ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING REFUGEES MOVING FROM INDOCHINA, PORUGAL, CHILE, UGANDA, ETC.

5. THOMAS DWELLED AT SOME LENGTH ON HOPE THAT IN CLOSED SESSION OF EXCOM, THERE COULD BE GOOD GIVE AND TAKE ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE CSCE HUMANITARIAN PROVISIONS. HE STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE EILBERG PROPOSAL ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION UNDER THE HELSINKI UMBRELLA WAS WELL RECIEVED AT ICEM EXCOM IN MAY, THERE HAD BEEN SOME SECOND THOUGHTS AND PROBLEMS WHEN DELEGATES RETURNED HOME. THESE THOMAS WILL DISCUSS DURING HIS PRESENTATION, ALONG WITH OTHER "MISUNDERSTANDINGS" CONCERNING ICEM'S POSSIBLE ROLE IN THIS REGARD. FOR INSTANCE, HE POINTED OUT, ICEM IS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT THE ONLY AGENCY WORKING IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN THIS AREA. SOME AGENCIES HAVE FAILED TO INDERSTAND THAT ONE OF ICEM'S FUNCTIONS WOULD BE SIMPLY TO ASSEMBLE STATISTICS AND PUT TOGETHER COMPOSITE PICTURE OF WHAT IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED BY ALL ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN THIS WORK. SOME OPPOSITION TO ICEM'S INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ACTIVITY HAD BEEN EXPRESSED, DUE TO ITS HIGH SENSITIVITY. THOMAS ADDED THAT THOUGHTHAD BEEN VOICEDTHAT EASTERN

BLOC HAD "TOSSED IN" FAMILY REUNIFICATION AT HELSINKI PURELY AS SOP, EXPECTING THAT NOTHING WOULD COME OF IT. FINALLY, AND MORE CONCRETELY, GERMANS HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS AS TO ICEM'S OPERATING IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA AT TIME WHEN FRG IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN DELICATE BILATERALS WITH EAST GERMANS AND POLES, INTER ALIA, AND THEREFORE DOES NOT VIEW WITH FAVOR INTRUSION OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES INTO THIS ON-GOING ACTIVITY. ALTHOUGH THOMS HAS EXPLAINED TO DR. GENGI IN BONN AND MINISTER VON STEMPER HERE THAT ICEM'S WORK WOULD PARALLEL, BUT NOT INTERFERE WITH, SUCH BILATERAL DEALINGS, HE IS NOT SURE THAT THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN CONVINCED. FURTHER, HE BELIEVES, AT LEAST THE DANES, BELGIANS, AND DUTCH ARE PRESENTLY INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH FRG RESERVATIONS IN THIS REGARD. IN ADDITION TO FRG, ICEM IS IN TOUCH WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, SEEKING UNDERSTANDING OF ITS POSITION. DURING RECENT VISIT TO CANADA, THOMAS STATED, HE WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY OVERWHELMING CANADIAN INTEREST IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION, WHICH IS IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ITS IMMIGRATION PROGRAM. ON OTHER HAND, LA'S AND OTHERS ARE DISTINCTLY COOL TO

ICEM'S PURSUIT OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION UNDER CSCE RUBRIC, WHICH SOME VIEW AS PURELY POLITICAL MATTER, IN NO WAY TOUCHING UPON THEIR INTERESTS. IN ANY EVENT, THOMAS WOULD WELCOME FREE AND HEARTY DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER IN EXCOM, RATHER THAN HAVING IT BARED AND BELABORED IN OPEN COUNCIL SESSIONS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 8768

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6. ON ITEM 5, PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ICEM CONSTITUTION, THOMAS SAID THAT ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN THIS SESSION IS SOLELY TO KEEP IT ON EXCOM AGENDA, WITH VIEW TO POSSIBLE PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL IN FALL OF 1977. NOTING THAT "LEGAL EXPERTS" HAD ORIGINALLY INDUCED ICEM ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE ALL POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN FIRST DOCUMENT, THOMAS SAID THAT ITS CURRENT EFFORT IS ONLY TO ELIMINATE "EUROPEAN" FROM TITLE.

7. THOMAS SAID THAT SPECIAL REPORTS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO EXCOM ON CHILE, FAMILY REUNIFICATION, AND ICEM'S INDOCHINESE OPERATIONS.

8. THOMAS OBSERVED THAT IT IS NOW THE TURN OF THE LATIN AMERICAN STATES TO CHAIR THE ICEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN 1977. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOT YET CAUCUSED TO SELECT THEIR CANDIDATE. HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THE CHOICE WILL FALL UPON CARIAS OF HONDURAS.

9. THOMAS HAD JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT SPAIN WAS "99 PERCENT SURE" IT WOULD RECALL ITS LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL FROM ICEM. ONLY REMAINING HURDLE, ACCORDING TO THOMAS, IS LARGELY PRO-FORMA APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT DECISION WITHIN FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE EXPRESSED VAST RELIEF THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE RAISED AS A PROBLEM

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AT EXCOM.

10. ICEM COUNCIL: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE WILL BE SIMPLE CEREMONY IN EFFORT TO AVOID HEAVY COSTS. SCENARIO CALLS FOR CHAIRMAN WILSON TO OPEN COUNCIL SESSION PROMPTLY AT 11:00 AM NOVEMBER 22. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY CREDENTIALS REPORT AND ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN, DR. OSCAR SCHURCH OF SWITZERLAND. A ONE-HOUR CEREMONY IS TO FOLLOW AT 11:15 AM WITH SWISS MINISTER OF POLICE AND JUSTICE OPENING SPEAKER, FOLLOWED BY OTHERS FROM CANTON, BERN AND GENEVA GOVERNMENT. A THUS FAR UNSPECIFIED SPEAKER FROM BELGIUM, ONE OF ICEM'S ORIGINAL FOUNDERS, WILL FOLLOW, AND THEN HOPEFULLY A PROMINENT AMERICAN PERSONALITY. (THOMAS HAD HOPED FOR SENATOR KENNEDY OR CONGRESSMAN RODINO, BUT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE.) UNITED NATIONS DIRECTOR GENERAL IN GENEVA, VITTORIO WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI WILL DELIVER MESSAGE FROM UNSYG. ICEM WILL HOST LUNCHEON FOR PROMINENT PARTICIPANTS IN ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION AND, REPORTEDLY A GALA EVENING RECEPTION ON THE 22ND.

11. COUNCIL WILL THEN PROCEED TO ELECTIONS OF VICE-CHAIRMAN (LATIN AMERICAN TO BE DESIGNATED BY REGIONAL CAUCUS), A SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN (POSSIBLY GREEK OR MALTESE) AND A RAPPORTEUR (PROBABLY SPAIN). APPLICATIONS FROM TWO NEW OBSERVER GOVERNMENTS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THAILAND, WILL THEN BE CONSIDERED. (THOMAS SPOKE WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM OF PRESENCE IN NEW THAI DELEGATION OF CHIEF OF DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BIRABHONGSE KASEMSRI, WHOM HE RATES "FIRST CLASS." THE DIRECTOR'S OPENING STATEMENT WILL BE BROAD IN ITS COVERAGE AND HE EXPECTS A FULL DAY'S DEBATE TO FOLLOW, AFTER WHICH STATEMENTS WILL BE DELIVERED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNHCR, AND OTHER U.N. AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

12. IN ELECTIONS FOR 1977, THOMAS EXPECTS THAT NORWAY WILL REPLACE DENMARK ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THAT THREE NEW LATIN AMERICAN STATES WILL BE DESIGNATED IN THEIR FORTHCOMING REGIONAL MEETING.
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13. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTION, THOMAS STATED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY "SURPRISES" OTHER THAN THOSE BASED UPON POSSIBLE UNINSTRUCTED PERSONAL INITIATIVES, WHICH MIGHT ARISE AT SESSIONS. HE WAS CONSCIOUS THAT US HAD REQUESTED ICEM REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES IN CSCE-RELATED FAMILY REUNIFICATION BUT SAID THAT PREPARATION OF SUCH REPORT HAD "NOT BEEN POSSIBLE" TO DATE.
COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THOMAS IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER HANDLING OF THIS SUBJECT, WHICH HE HIMSELF EVIDENTLY VIEWS WITH SOME MISGIVINGS, AND CONSIDERS IT A MAJOR PROBLEM DURING FORTHCOMING SESSIONS. CATTO

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